

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

The three paragraphs beginning at page 1, line 11 are amended as follows:

a1 "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING AND PROVISIONING VIRTUAL ROUTERS", serial number 09/663,485 [[_____]], <Attorney Docket 1384.009>,

"SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING ROUTER METADATA", serial number 09/663,484 [[_____]], <Attorney Docket 1384.011>,

and to two provisional applications each titled "SYSTEMS AND METHOD FOR DELIVERING INTERNETWORKING SERVICES" serial numbers 60/232,577 and 60/232,516, <Attorney Dockets 1384.012PRV AND 1384.013PRV>;

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25 and ending at page 6, line 6 is amended as follows:

a2 Service management system 118 hosts software that is used to configure and control the operation of service processing switch 110. In one embodiment of the invention, the service management system is a SPARC system available from Sun Microsystems, Inc. running the InVision product from CoSine Communications, Inc. Service management system 118 can be used to allocate resources within service processing switch 110 to various customers. In one embodiment of the invention, service management system 118 communicates with service processing switch 110 using the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP). Further details on the operation of service management system 118 are provided in U.S. Patent Application serial number 09/663,485 [[_____]], entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING AND PROVISIONING VIRTUAL ROUTERS", previously incorporated by reference.

The paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19 is amended as follows:

a3 The embodiments of the invention include a software environment of systems and methods that provide a mechanism for subscribers to manage the services provided to them by a third party network service provider such as an Internet Service Provider (ISP). This includes managing subscriber related aspects of VPN (Virtual Private Networks) and VRs (Virtual Routers) and other resources allocated [[by]] to the subscriber within a service processing switch.

Q3
cont Generally speaking, the embodiments of the invention include policy-based mechanism for network service management. Thus a service provider, such as an ISP managing a service processing switch can create and generate tunnels, routing, and other service configurations for VPNs (Virtual Private Networks). These VPNs use resources within switch 110 such as blades and processing elements that are allocated by a service provider to one or more subscribers, who then can configure those elements allocated to them. Configuration from the subscriber's perspective can be driven based on profiles. One subscriber cannot view, modify, or create configurations involving the resources allocated to a different subscriber.

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 4 is amended as follows:

Q4 Choking component 224 provides a mechanism to ensure that not more than a configurable number of active subscriber management requests can be submitted to a service provider management system concurrently. If the total number of requests submitted by subscriber management server 210 ever exceeds the maximum allowed, the requests are queued so that a flood of subscriber management requests cannot bring the service provider management system or the network down.